What is claimed is:

1   1.   A computer for use in a pervasive computing system, comprising:

2   a wireless detector operable for detecting identifications from one or

3   more other computers;

4   a central processing unit coupled to the wireless detector; and

5   a memory coupled to the central processing unit such that in operation

6   the memory stores log entries for selected ones of the identifications and

7   further such that in operation the central processing unit of the computer

8   recognizes an event based upon a pattern recognition algorithm that

9   evaluates the log entries.

1   2.   The computer of claim 1 wherein the event is a reminder event.

1   3.   The computer of claim 1 wherein the event notifies a caregiver of a status of a

2   patient.

1   4.   The computer of claim 1 wherein the pattern recognition algorithm operates

2   based on a sequence of the identifications.

1   5.   The computer of claim 1 wherein at least one log entry includes a timestamp

2   for indicating the time at which the corresponding identification is received.

1   6.   The computer of claim 5 wherein the pattern recognition algorithm operates

2   based on timestamps for the identifications.

1   7.   The computer of claim 1 further comprising an output device coupled to the

2   central processing unit such that in operation the central processing unit activates the

3   output device upon recognizing the event and the output device provides an output

4   signal to a user.

1   8.   The computer of claim 1 further comprising an input device coupled to the

2   central processing unit such that in operation the user acknowledges receipt of the

3   output signal via the input device.

1   9.   The computer of claim 1 wherein in operation the central processing unit
2   notifies one or more of the other computers upon the central processing unit
3   recognizing the event.

1   10.   The computer of claim 1 further comprising a base computer such that in
2   operation the mobile computer occasionally transfers the log entries to the base
3   computer.

1   11.   The computer of claim 1 further comprising a set of pattern recognition
2   algorithms.

1   12.   The computer of claim 11 wherein in response to the event being recognized,
2   the mobile computer modifies the set of pattern recognition algorithms.

1   13.   The computer of claim 11 wherein in the computer is mobile.

1   14.   The computer of claim 11 wherein in the computer is immobile.

1   15.   A pervasive computing system comprising:
2   .   a small computer, including a wireless detector operable for detecting
3   identifications from one or more other small computers, a central
4   processing unit coupled to the wireless detector, and a memory coupled to
5   the central processing unit such that in operation the memory stores log
6   entries for the identifications; and
7   a base computer such that in operation at least one of the small
8   computers occasionally transfers the log entries to the base computer.

1   16.   The pervasive computing system of claim 15 wherein the base computer
2   performs a data mining operation on the log entries.

1   17.   The pervasive computing system of claim 15 wherein the central processing
2   unit of a first small computer recognizes an event based upon a pattern recognition
3   algorithm that evaluates the log entries.

1   18.   The pervasive computing system of claim 17 wherein the event is a reminder
2   event.

1   19.   The pervasive computing system of claim 17 wherein the event notifies a
2   caregiver of a status of a patient.

1   20.   A pervasive computing system comprising a plurality of small computers,
2   each small computer comprising:
3   at least one of: a wireless emitter for emitting an identification over
4   time; and a wireless receiver for detecting identifications emitted by others
5   of the plurality of small computers over time;
6   a central processing unit coupled to the at least one of the wireless
7   emitter and the wireless detector; and
8   a memory coupled to the central processing unit such that in operation
9   the memory stores log entries for the detected identifications and further
10   such that in operation the central processing unit of a first small computer
11   recognizes an event based upon a pattern recognition algorithm that
12   evaluates the log entries.

1   21.   The pervasive computing system of claim 20 wherein the event is a reminder
2   event.

1   22.   The pervasive computing system of claim 20 wherein the event notifies a
2   caregiver of a status of a patient.

1   23.   The pervasive computing system of claim 20 wherein the pattern recognition
2   algorithm operates based on a sequence of the identifications.

1   24.   The pervasive computing system of claim 20 wherein at least one log entry
2   includes a timestamp for indicating the time at which the corresponding identification
3   is received.

1   25.   The pervasive computing system of claim 24 wherein the pattern recognition

2   algorithm operates based on timestamps for the identifications.

1   26.   The pervasive computing system of claim 20 wherein the first small computer

2   further comprises an output device coupled to the central processing unit such that in

3   operation the central processing unit activates the output device upon recognizing the

4   event and the output device provides an output signal to a user.

1   27.   The pervasive computing system of claim 20 further comprising a base

2   computer such that in operation the first small computer occasionally transfers the log

3   entries to the base computer.

1   28.   A method for a pervasive computer system comprising the steps of:

2   receiving identifications over time;

3   making a log entry for selected ones of the identifications;

4   running a pattern recognition algorithm on the log entries which

5   recognizes a event; and

6   notifying a person of the event.

1   29.   The method of claim 28 wherein the pattern recognition algorithm operates

2   based on a sequence of the identifications.

1   30.   The method of claim 28 wherein at least one log entry includes a timestamp

2   for indicating the time at which the corresponding identification is received.

1   31.   The method of claim 28 wherein the pattern recognition algorithm operates

2   based on timestamps for the identifications.

1   32.   The method of claim 28 further transferring the log entries to the base

2   computer.

1   33.   The method of claim 28 wherein the event is a reminder event.

1   34.   The method of claim 28 wherein a plurality of small computers provide the

2   identifications.

1   35.   The method of claim 34 wherein at least some of the plurality of small

2   computers are located at various places.

1   36.   The method of claim 34 wherein at least one of the plurality of small

2   computers is attached to a thing.

1   37.   The method of claim 36 wherein the step of running the pattern recognition

2   algorithm determines that the thing was taken by the person from the first place to the

3   second place, that later the person left the second place without the thing, and that

4   leaving the second place without the thing comprises the reminder event.

1   38.   The method of claim 36 wherein the step of running the pattern recognition

2   algorithm determines that the person left the first place and arrived at the second place

3   without the thing and that arriving at the second place without the thing comprises the

4   reminder event.

1   39.   The method of claim 28 wherein the event notifies a caregiver of a status of a

2   patient.

1   40.   The method of claim 39 wherein a first small computer worn by the patient

2   receives the identifications.

1   41.   The method of claim 40 wherein a plurality of second small computers

2   provide the identifications and further wherein the plurality of second small

3   computers are located at various places within an environment for the patient.

1   42.   A computer readable memory comprising computer code for implementing a

2   method of reminding a person upon a lapse of human memory, the method of

3   reminding the person upon the lapse of human memory comprising the steps of:

4   receiving identifications over time;

5   making a log entry for selected ones of the identifications;

6   running a pattern recognition algorithm on the log entries which

7   recognizes a event; and

8   notifying a person of the event.

1   43.   A method of employing a network of first small computers to monitor a

2   patient comprising the steps of:

3   receiving identifications at a second small computer worn by the

4   patient, the identifications indicating location of the patient over time;

5   issuing a timestamp for at least some of the identifications, thereby

6   forming timestamp-identification pairs;

7   making a log entry for at least some of the timestamp-identification

8   pairs;

9   running a pattern recognition algorithm on the log entries which

10   recognizes a notification event; and

11   notifying a caregiver of the notification event.

1   44.   A computer readable memory comprising computer code for implementing a

2   method of monitoring a patient by a caregiver, the method comprising the steps of:

3   receiving identifications at a second small computer worn by the

4   patient, the identifications indicating location of the patient over time;

5   issuing a timestamp for at least some of the identifications, thereby

6   forming timestamp-identification pairs;

7   making a log entry for at least some of the timestamp-identification

8   pairs;

9   running a pattern recognition algorithm on the log entries which

10   recognizes a notification event; and

11   notifying a caregiver of the notification event.